

San Diego International Airport

Airport Address

3225 North Harbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92101

Air Cargo Contact

Airport Operations Department, info@san.org
619-400-2710

Caltrans Contacts

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San Diego International Airport (SAN) is situated on the southern California coast – three miles from downtown San Diego and around 25 miles from the U.S.-Mexico International Border. It is the busiest single runway airport in the nation and second in the world behind Gatwick Airport near London. Owned and operated by the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, SAN is one of three commercial airports (along with Imperial County and McClellan – Palomar airports) within San Diego and Imperial counties (Caltrans District 11).

OPERATIONS

SAN is open for arrivals 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A departure curfew exists for all flights between 11:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. Departures during the curfew hours are subject to large fines.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- The current Airport Master Plan (2008) identifies 69,750 square feet of air cargo buildings on airport property.
- All-cargo carriers operate out of portable trailers next to the north cargo ramp. Cargo is trucked in and out of the airport, with sorting and loading performed off-site.
- A Foreign Trade Zone is located about 20 miles from SAN.

AIRPORT TRADE CHARACTERISTICS

- SAN is served by five all-cargo airlines, with the majority of flights serving Memphis, Tennessee for Federal Express (FedEx) and Columbus, Ohio for United Parcel Service (UPS).
- Several airlines carry belly cargo in passenger aircraft and have facilities on airport property.
- Continued air cargo growth is expected due to the addition of international passenger flights to Asia.



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK TRUCKING

Primary North-South Routes

- I-5, I-805, and I-15, and SR 163

Primary East-West Routes

- I-8 and SR 94

On northbound I-5, there is a low 13'10" vertical clearance to the right at the Pershing Drive off-ramp (post mile 15.4) due to an angled overcrossing.

SEAPORTS AND RAIL LINE ACCESS

- The Port of San Diego is approximately five miles from SAN.
- Neither Union Pacific (UP) nor BNSF Railway provides freight rail service to SAN.
- High speed rail service, which may eventually serve freight, is being planned for an area just northeast and adjacent to SAN.

PLANNED PROJECT

- The cargo apron is scheduled for rehabilitation / reconstruction between fiscal years 2014 and 2016.

OTHER AIRPORT FACTS

- SAN transported 162,353 tons of cargo and mail in 2013.
- Of the five busiest California airports in terms of air cargo, in 2011, SAN experienced the most growth.
- Cargo flight operations are anticipated to grow more slowly than tonnage due to the use of increasingly larger aircraft with the ability to carry more cargo per departure.

CONSTRAINTS AND ISSUES

- With limited land area, accommodation for cargo aircraft parking is an issue at SAN.
- Cargo structures are old and not well-configured for efficient cargo operations.
- SAN faces encroachment in all directions, which limits expansion opportunities. To date, relocation efforts have been unsuccessful.
- Terrain and obstacles around the airport limit aircraft payloads for some long-haul international routes that require more fuel.
- The prohibition on takeoffs between 11:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. limits SAN's cargo expansion potential.
- Airfield capacity constraints resulting from having a single runway will begin to limit growth beyond 2030.

CALTRANS FOCUS AREAS

- Assist SAN in meeting future passenger and cargo needs in the region.
- Implement ways to alleviate highway bottlenecks along truck routes.
- Work with SAN to improve ground access for cargo activities.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PARTNERS

Port of San Diego: <http://www.portofsandiego.org/>

San Diego Air Pollution Control District:
<http://www.sdapcd.org/>

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG):
<http://www.sandag.org/>

SOURCES

Air Cargo Mode Choice and Demand Study (2010), prepared for Caltrans by TranSystems:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ogm/key_reports_files/Air_Cargo_Mode_Choice_&Demand_Study_080210.pdf

Air Cargo World: <http://www.aircargoworld.com>

California Air Cargo Groundside Needs Study (2013), prepared for Caltrans by System Metrics Group, Incorporated:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ogm/air_cargo/PartI_Air_Crgo_Grd_Side_Needs_Stdy_Fnl_2013_October_21.docx

Goods Movement Action Plan (2007), California Air Resource Board and Business, Transportation and Housing: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/gmp/docs/gmap-1-11-07.pdf>

Multi-County Goods Movement Action Plan, Metro, (2008): <http://www.metro.net/projects/mcgmap>

San Diego International Airport:
<http://www.san.org/>

